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## Carlsbad Caverns News Release

For Immediate Release  
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### National Park Foundation Interns Go Caving

After hearing about what an incredible experience it was to be a part of the Discovery/National Park Foundation filming project at Carlsbad Caverns National Park last year, four NPF interns decided that this was just the place for them to visit.

As part of their internship experience, each new group of NPF interns plans a trip to a national park, not only to visit, but to participate in a volunteer project as well. Past trips have involved clearing out backcountry campgrounds at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, removing fishing line from piers at Gulf Islands National Seashore, and restoring trails at Olympic National Park.

At Carlsbad Caverns last week, the interns went on nearly every tour the park offers, including the off- trail tours. For most of the group, crawling around in Carlsbad Cavern and other park caves was a first. Intern Alyssa Henley said, "This is the first time I've ever been caving. I'm sure there are many more caving trips in my future!"

While having fun, they also volunteered their time and helped park staff replace trail markers on the off- trail tours. Surveyor's flagging tape is used to mark cave trails and fragile cave features. Main off- trail routes in park caves are flagged with double lines of orange flagging tape. The taped trails protect untrammeled areas and give those areas that have been impacted time to recover.

Acting superintendent John Benjamin said, "The time those interns spent here at the park was priceless—not only did they get to see a beautiful part of the country, but they were able to help the staff on some projects that might not have gotten done otherwise. Last year alone, more than 200 volunteers contributed over 15,000 hours to the park—it's a big help!"

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“Every 6 months we get a new crop of interns at the Foundation,” said Eddie Gonzalez, program director for the NPF. “We are very proud of our intern program and really strive to give our interns a well- rounded and professional experience that goes beyond copying and collating.”

The National Park Foundation is the official nonprofit partner of America’s national parks. Over the past seven years, the NPF has contributed more than \$135 million in grants and program support to national parks across the country. For more information about the NPF and their internship program, visit their website at [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org).

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From left to right: Rob Doyle, National Park Foundation development manager, and interns Lisa Cashel, Josh Ryan, Alyssa Henley and Josh Douglas.

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